

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed March 4, 2004. In view of the following remarks, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

The Office Action rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ball et al. (U.S. 5,860,071) (hereinafter Ball). This rejection is traversed. Claim 1 is directed at a method for creating a link in a computer network that comprises a step of storing last modified timestamp information and/or latest version information in a validity check field. Ball fails to disclose or suggest at least the above feature.

In particular, Ball fails to disclose or suggest a method for creating a link. Instead, Ball discloses a method for identifying whether a document linked from a base document has changed over time. Ball discloses that the information is stored when the user visits the web page for the first time and when the user again visits the web page at a later time. See Ball at column 2, lines 13-27. Furthermore, Ball fails to disclose or suggest storing information in a validity check field of the base web page. Instead, Ball discloses storing versions information and timestamp information in a repository. See Ball at column 5, lines 1-13. Accordingly, claim 1 is not anticipated.

Claims 2-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Sanford et al. (U.S. 6,256,028) (hereinafter Sanford). This rejection is traversed.

Claim 2 is directed at a method for checking a link validity in a computer network. The method includes the steps of (a) storing last modified timestamp information indicative of a last modification time of each object and/or latest version information of each object in a validity check field upon creating a link, (b) reading location data pre-stored in a location data field and determining whether a multimedia document for referencing is present at a location indicated by the read location data, and (c) extracting predetermined information from the multimedia document if it is determined at said step b) that said multimedia document is present at said location, determining whether the extracted information is the same as that pre-stored in said validity check field, performing a referencing process if the extracted information is the same as that pre-stored in said validity check field and performing a referencing error process if the

extracted information is not the same as that pre-stored in said validity check field. Sanford fails to disclose the above-recited features.

In particular, Sanford instead discloses a method for downloading and updating a tool that allows the user to easily browse a hierarchical structure of links present in a web page. See Sanford at column 2, lines 24-34. Sanford discloses that version information and timestamp information are used as a reference for determining whether the tool should be updated, when the user again visits the same website. See Sanford at column 5, lines 60-66. Accordingly, Sanford is completely different from the present invention in which, based on version information and timestamp information included in the validity check field of the link, upon referencing one source using a link, it is possible to determine whether the contents of a different source for referencing were changed after creation of a link. More specifically, Sanford fails to disclose or suggest steps (a)-(c) of claim 2. Accordingly, claim 2 is not anticipated. Claims 3-5 depend on and further limit claim 2, therefore, for at least the same reasons they are also not anticipated.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

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By Curtis B. Hamre
Curtis B. Hamre
Reg. No. 29,165
CBH/JEL:sll